

REMARKS

Claims 7-14 and 17 were previously pending in this application. Claims 1-6, 15 and 16 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 7 has been amended herein. No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 7, 10-11, 13-14 and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Gordon, US Patent No. 4,101,701. Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are patentably distinct from the cited references.

Amended independent Claim 7 recites, *inter alia*:

A resin panel comprising . . . a film for insert molding used fixed in an injection molding mold arranged on a surface of said resin panel body, said film comprising . . . a second binder layer formed to seal said printed part in co-operation with the first binder layer, wherein the second binder layer directly contacts both the printed part, along a surface of the printed part which faces said resin panel body, and the first binder layer, along a periphery of the printed part, wherein the first binder layer, printed part and second binder layer are formed in this order

Applicants submit that Gordon cannot anticipate amended claims 7, 10-11 and 13-14 because it does not teach each and every element of these claims. See MPEP § 2131. Importantly, although directed to insert molding, the film produced in Gordon does not have the problem of ink flow because Gordon does not fix the film in an injection molding mold. More specifically, Gordon discloses an assembly of laminating sheets which act to secure a layer 12 containing a photograph and/or typed information. The layer 12 is contained “on a suitable support 14 of paper or the like.” See Gordon, col. 3, lines 39-40; see also Gordon, Fig. 2. As indicated in the December 14, 2004 Office Action, Gordon secures layer 12 and support 14 using first binder

layer 16 and second binder layer 18, which cooperate in direct contact along the periphery of layer 12. See Office Action, 12/14/04, p. 3. Apparent from Figures 2 and 5, and as explained in the Specification, layer 12 is bonded directly to first binder layer 16 but separated from second binder layer 18 by support 14. See Gordon, col. 3, lines 61-68. In fact, Gordon identifies support 14, apart from layer 12, as a separate support layer, together with sheet 20, for providing strength and rigidity to the laminar assembly. In other words, Gordon does not teach or suggest a structure wherein layer 12 is in direct contact with both the first binder layer and the second binder layer.

Moreover, if the “printed part” in Gordon corresponds to only ink, which constitutes a *part* of layer 12, then such “printed part” is necessarily separated from second binder layer 18 by paper or the like of support 14. Therefore, Gordon does not teach or suggest a construction wherein “the printed part directly adheres to the first binder layer and to the second binder layer.” Furthermore, if the “printed part” is considered to include matter *other than* ink – such as paper or the like of support 14 – then Gordon cannot possibly teach a construction wherein “the printed part consists entirely of ink.” Accordingly, no interpretation of Gordon will teach the construction as disclosed by Applicants in claim 7.

Further, the December 14, 2004 Office Action argues that “Gordon discloses that the material of the resin panel body is the same as that of the resin film (col. 4, lines 54-56, col. Lines 22-23).” See Office Action, p. 3. However, Gordon merely discloses that “rear wall member 26 . . . is a polyester sheet which can be of the same or of a different thickness than front member 24” and makes no reference as to the material of the resin film.

For at least the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Gordon does not teach or suggest each and every element recited in mended independent claim 7 or claims 10-11, 13-14 or 17 depending therefrom. Accordingly, these claims define patentable subject matter over Gordon. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this ground of rejection.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 8-9 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gordon, US Patent No. 4,101,701, in view of Keng, US Patent No. 5,362,540. Applicants submit that the claims are patentably distinct from the cited references, taken either alone or in combination.

In Gordon, “the essence of the . . . invention resides in the discovery that layers comprising an ethylene acrylic acid copolymer and/or an ethylene ethyl acrylate copolymer [i.e. layer 18] can be combined with a layer comprising a mixture of polyvinyl alcohol and polyvinylpyridine [i.e. layer 16] to provide an effective heat-activatable adhesive system for laminar assemblies used in the preparation of I.D. cards and/or credit cards” See Gordon, col. 2, lines 29-36. As a result, this system provides a security seal that can withstand attempts to separate the various layers. See Gordon, col. 6, lines 5-8. Not extending such layers to the periphery of the assembly would inherently mean not applying the heat-activatable system along the assembly’s outer edges. Resultantly, this would produce structural weaknesses along that portion of an I.D. card or credit card which is most susceptible to peeling and requires, perhaps, the highest degree of adhesive strength. Gordon clearly does not teach or suggest such a configuration, as it would defeat the essence of the patented invention.

Further, Keng is directed to a document protection apparatus comprising laminating sheets and shielding sheets such that a document can be laminated and subsequently removed without being damaged. Although Keng describes laminating sheets directly adhered to one another along the periphery of a shield device, the invention is silent as to a printed part directly adhered to first binder layer and a structure wherein first and second binder layers cooperate to seal a printed part on all four sides. To the contrary, the thrust of the Keng invention is to prevent bonding between the document and the laminating sheets and provide for later, simple removal of a document.

Serial No. 10/402,521
Response dated September 27, 2005
Reply to Final Office Action of June 27, 2005

Docket No. 5000-4777

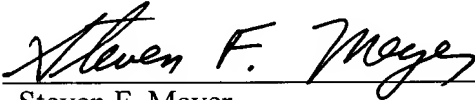
For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that amended independent claim 7 is patentably distinct from the cited references, taken either alone or in combination. Further, Applicants submit that claims 8-9 and 12, which are directly or indirectly dependent from amended independent claim 7, are also patentably distinct from the cited references for at least similar reasons. Therefore, Applicants request withdrawal of these grounds of rejections.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application..

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: September 27, 2005

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